

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device for storing and protecting a card having an electronic data-carrying element from inadvertent erasure of data ~~and/or other damage~~, comprising:

a holder (1), ~~configured~~ sized and shaped to contain a card comprising an electronic data-carrying element, the card having a card width and a card length being longer than said card width, and the card being any of a bank card, key card, membership card, cash card, and payment card,

the holder comprised of shielding metal sheets (2, 3) formed of a soft ferromagnetic material having a high magnetic permeability, the shielding metal sheets configured to envelop the data-carrying element of the card and protect, by electromagnetic shielding, the data-carrying element from erasure via exposure to any of magnetic and electromagnetic radiation emitted from a source external to the holder,

the metal sheets of the holder (1) being produced from one uniform piece of ~~sheet~~ said soft ferromagnetic material as a sheet that is bent or folded at a fold such that the holder (1) has the form of a first sheet portion (2), and a second, parallel sheet portion (3, 4, 5) connected to the first sheet portion (2)

via the fold, the second sheet portion (3, 4, 5) being connected to the first sheet portion (2) at a distance from the first sheet portion (2) corresponding approximately to a thickness of the card to be protected,

wherein a size of the first sheet portion (2) closely corresponds to a size of the card such that an area of the first sheet portion (2) is configured to completely overlap overlaps ~~the~~ a whole surface area of the card,

wherein an area of the second sheet portion (3, 4, 5) is configured to completely overlap the data-carrying element of the card upon the card being fully inserted into the holder (1), and

wherein the area of the second sheet portion (3, 4, 5) is further configured to extend a distance from the fold such that a surface of the card, extending over the entire card length, is exposed and not overlapped by the second sheet portion (3, 4, 5).

2. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein external plane sides of the holder (1) have a layer or coating applied thereto.

3. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the layer or coating is provided with distinctive marks in the form of a logo or advertising.

4. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the holder (1) is equipped with a suitable cleaning layer on an inner surface of at least one of the sheets (2, 3) facing the electronic data-carrying element.

5. (previously presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the cleaning layer is made of one of a soft rubber material and a felt material.

6. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~shielding metal~~ soft ferromagnetic material is selected from the material class "Electrical Steel".

7. (currently amended) The device according to claim 6, wherein the ~~shielding metal~~ soft ferromagnetic material is transformer sheet.

8. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the shielding metal has a thickness in the range of 0.25 - 1.0 mm.

9. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the shielding metal has a thickness of 0.29 mm.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The device of claim 8, wherein the shielding metal has a thickness of about 0.27 mm.

12. (previously presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the layer or coating is a wear-resistant material.

13. (previously presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the layer or coating is one of an elastomer and a suitable plastic material.

14. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the holder (1) is equipped with a suitable cleaning layer on an inner surface of at least one of the sheets (2, 3) facing the electronic data-carrying element.

15. (previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the holder (1) is equipped with a suitable cleaning layer on an inner surface of at least one of the sheets (2, 3) facing the electronic data-carrying element.

16. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[2]] 21, wherein the ~~shielding metal~~ soft ferromagnetic material is selected from the material class "Electrical Steel".

17-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2 wherein the shielding metal has a thickness in the range of 0.25 - 1.0 mm.

21. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1 in combination with said card having said card width and said card length longer than said card width, and said card being any of a bank card, key card, membership card, cash card, and payment card,

wherein the data-carrying element is any of a magnetic strip and a microchip.

22. (new) The device according to claim 1,  
wherein the soft ferromagnetic material of said shielding metal sheets (2, 3) is configured to resist becoming magnetized as a permanent magnet, and

wherein the soft ferromagnetic material has a high saturation level such that the soft ferromagnetic material protects said card against powerful magnetic fields.

23. (new) The device according to claim 1, wherein erasure of the electronic data-carrying element of said card is prevented by the soft ferromagnetic material of said shielding metal sheets (2, 3) upon exposure to magnetic energies of at least 70 mT.

24. (new) The device according to claim 1, wherein the shielding metal sheets are configured to protect, by electromagnetic shielding, the data-carrying element from erasure resulting from exposure to magnetic radiation emitted from the source external to the holder.